



ROY THOMAS PAUL KUPPERBERG & ARVELL JONES

WHAT A WAY
TO LOUSE UP
HOURMAN
AND
FIREBRAND'S
FIRST DATE!

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

vs *NIGHT*
and *FOG!*

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44
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THE COMIC BOOK

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WHERE LEGENDS LIVE.



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1942—a world at war! And against the forces of Axis darkness, the mightiest heroes of Earth-Two have banded together, under direct orders of the President, as the

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

MANHATTAN:

NIGHT HAS COME, AND THE BUSTLE OF THE TEEMING CITY SETTLES INTO FAMILIAR, NOT-YET-FULLY-BLACKED-OUT ROUTINE.

THOUGH LACED WITH THE USUAL SURPRISES WHICH ARE A PART OF NEW YORK CITY:

GANGWAY, FOLKS! THE DOWNTOWN EXPRESS IS COMING THROUGH!

JOHNNY-- PLEASE! WE'RE NOT IN THAT MUCH OF A HURRY.

WOW! LOOK, MA! IT'S JOHNNY QUICK AND LIBERTY BELLE!

HEAVENS! THOSE TWO MUST BE ON AN AWFULLY IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT!

SURE! DIDN'T YOU HEAR HOW THEY CLOBBED A WHOLE BUNCH OF JAPANESE SPIES A COUPLE OF NIGHTS BACK?

HMMM... MAYBE I SHOULD TELL 'EM THAT I SAT THAT ONE OUT, WHILE YOU DID ALL THE WORK, BELLE.

HARDLY, ANYWAY. WHAT HARM CAN IT DO FOR THEM TO THINK WE'RE OFF ON SOME DANGEROUS MISSION FOR THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON--

--RATHER THAN SIMPLY RUSHING TO GRAND CENTRAL STATION LIKE MANIACS SO WE DON'T MISS OUR TRAIN TO PHILADELPHIA!

GUESS THAT'S THE PRICE WE PAY FOR DAWLING OVER DINNER.

SO I WANTED A SECOND CUP OF COFFEE--SUE ME! ANYWAY, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

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--WHEN YOU'RE WITH
THE FLEETEST FEET
IN TOWN?

HERE, FELLA--
TWO FIRST-CLASS
TICKETS. SORRY, NO
AUTOGRAPHS--WE'RE
IN KIND OF A HURRY.

ER--SO I
SEE, SIR.

IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY, JOHNNY, I'M SURPRISED
YOU EVEN CONDESCENDED TO TAKE A TRAIN
SOUTH, INSTEAD OF HOOVING IT ALL THE WAY.

HECK, EVEN YOUR SPEEDY
TYPES NEED TO RELAX ONCE
IN A WHILE, IF THEY WANNA
BE AWAKE TO ENJOY THE
SIGHTS IN PHILLY.

WAKE ME
WHEN WE
HIT TOWN,
OKAY?

OH?...

AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED
TO DO WHILE YOU CATCH
FORTY WINKS?

JOHNNY??!

ZZZZZZZZZZ

EVEN AS THE
PHILADELPHIA
FLYER CHUGS
FROM BENEATH
THE SIDEWALKS
OF NEW YORK--
ACROSS THE
RIVER, IN THE
HEART OF BROOKLYN--

G'WAN--FALL DOWN,
RUNT! CAN'T YA
SEE YER
OUTCLASSED?

HOW COME?
YOU HIDIN'
THE MARINES
BEHIND YA?

KEEP YOUR
GUARD UP,
SCRAPPER!
YOU CAN
BEAT HIM!

WAAAA!

AND, IN THE RAPID AUDIENCE, SEVERAL PROMINENT ADULTS ARE ENJOYING AN EVENING FREE OF THEIR
SECRET IDENTITIES--OR DO THEY?

WELL, JIM, THAT
LAD ISN'T MUCH ON FORM--
BUT HE SURE IS A SCRAPPER,
ISN'T HE?

THE BOY IS
GOOD, CARTER.

BUT YOU
STILL DON'T
CARE MUCH FOR
BOXING, EH,
SHIERA?

AT
LEAST
IT'S BETTER
THESE
SUICIDE SLUM
KIDS TAKE
OUT THEIR
HOSTILITIES IN
THE RING THAN
ON THE
STREETS.

WELL, PEOPLE?
WHAT DO YOU
THINK OF MY
NEWSBOY
LEGIONNAIRE
TURNED GOLDEN
GLOVES CONTENDER?

MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY, PAUL. SO, IN CASE YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY THE GUARDIAN *HASN'T BEEN TOO ACTIVE IN ALL-STAR CASES--

--IT'S BECAUSE, WHILE IT'S GREAT TO WANT TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM HITLER AND HIS GANG--

--MY MAIN JOB, THE WAY I SEE IT, IS TO TAKE KIDS LIKE THESE FROM THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY THAT'S JUST WAITING FOR THEM OUT ON THE STREETS.

YOU CAME THROUGH FOR US AGAINST DAKA WHEN IT MATTERED, CHUM. NO APOLOGIES NECESSARY.

POLICE ATHLETIC CITY-WIDE SEMI-

*POLICEMAN JIM HARPER'S ALTER EGO. --Roy.

Y'KNOW, I'VE HAD ABOUT ENUFFA YOUSE, BIG-MOUTH!

WHY DONTCHA JUST LAY DOWN AND REST YER GUMS?

GOOD WORK, SCRAPPER! THAT KNOCKOUT SURE DEFENDS THE HONOR OF SUICIDE SLUM-- SUCH AS IT IS.

HAH! BRING 'EM ALL ON, JIM! I AIN'T SCARED.

HEY! WHO'S YER FRIENDS? BRING SOME OF YER ALL-STAR SQUADRON BUDDIES DOWN TO WATCH THE DOOR PEOPLE?

AW, WHAT'S THE USE OF GOADING HIM? YOU KNOW JIM HARPER AIN'T NEVER GONNA ADMIT HE'S THE GUARDIAN!

YOU BOYS JUST HAVE OVERACTIVE IMAGINATIONS, THAT'S ALL, GABBY!

SO YOUSE SAY! ONE'S THESE DAYS WE'RE GONNA PROVE YER HIM-- JUST WAIT AN' SEE!

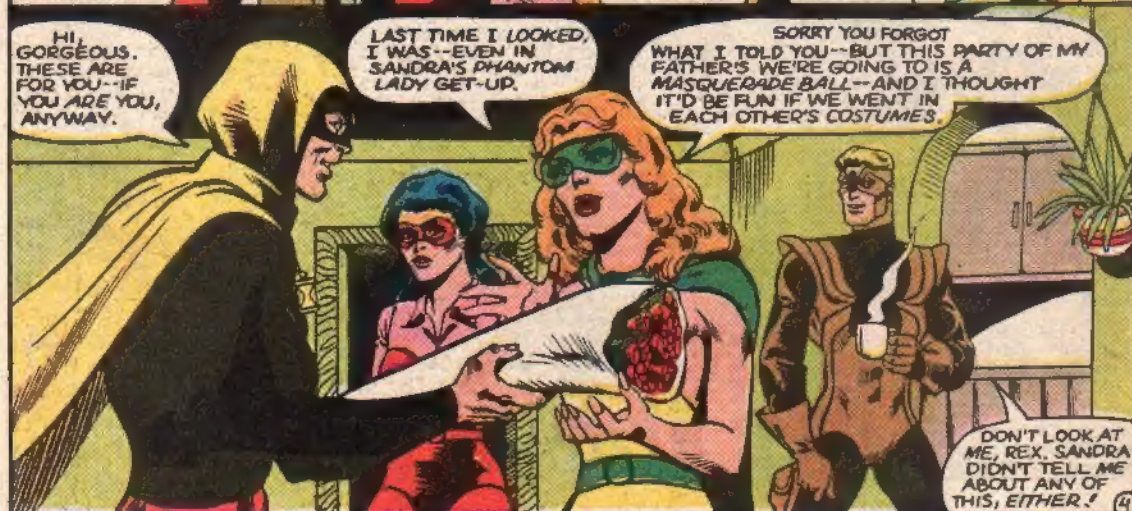
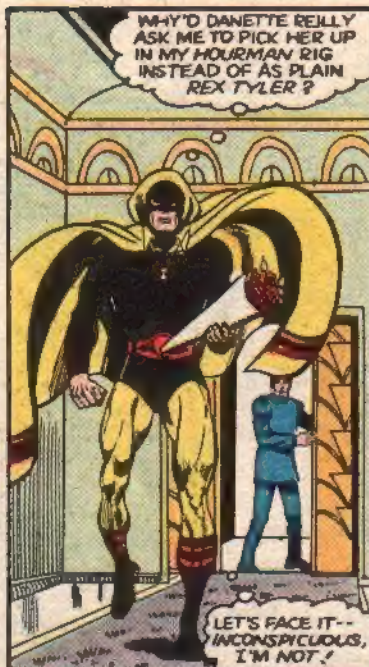
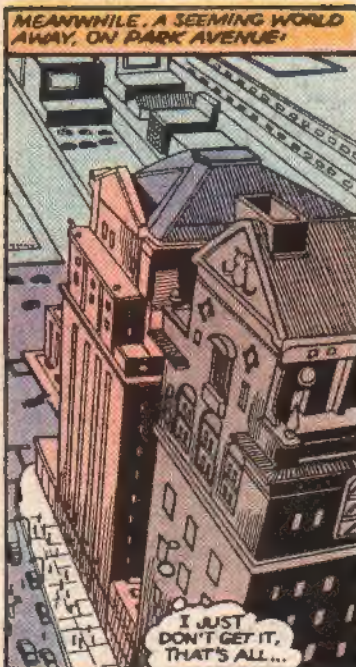
WELL, UNTIL THAT UNLIKELY DAY-- THE NEWSBOY LEGION TAKES OUR GUESTS ON A LITTLE TOUR OF BROOKLYN--

--IN SEARCH OF A SPOT FOR OUR VICTORY CELEBRATION?

I'M GAME!

THAT REMINDS ME-- MAKE SURE YOU TAKE A SHOWER FIRST, THIS TIME, OKAY, SCRAPPER?





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name and address only...
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questions.

HMMM... GUESS THAT'S ONE WAY TO SQUEEZE A LITTLE FUN OUT OF THIS SECRET-IDENTITY THING FOR A CHANGE--WITHOUT TOO MUCH RISK.

OKAY, I'LL BE A GOOD SPORT.

THOUGH I SURE HADN'T COUNTED ON DOUBLE-DATING--D NOT EXACTLY THE MOST IDEAL OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

COME ON, SANDRA, LET'S FIND A VASE FOR THESE.

SURE.

CAN I SCARE YOU UP A CUP OF JAVA, REX?

NO TIME FOR SOCIALIZING NOW, BOYS.

WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR DADDY'S LITTLE SHINDIG--

--AND YOU TWO STILL HAVE TO GET READY.

"GET READY"? WHAT--?

TELL HIM, JONATHAN. REX SEEMS TO BE A BIT SLOW ON THE UPTAKE TONIGHT.

HOLD ON! YOU DON'T MEAN--?

RIGHT! YOU'RE GOING TO THE BALL AS TARANTULA-- AND JONATHAN LAW IS GOING AS THE MAN-OF-THE-HOUR.

OH, NO! WHAT'D I LET MYSELF IN FOR?

DON'T LOOK SO GLUM. I'LL BE A BLAST.

IT'S NOT THAT BAD, LOOK, IT'S NOT LIKE I DIDN'T USE MY FIVE-DAY DEODORANT PAD BEFORE I PUT ON MY COSTUME.

'COURSE, THAT WAS A WEEK OR TWO AGO.

JUST KIDDING.

NIGHT AND FOG!

THE PLUSH PENTHOUSE
APARTMENT OF STEEL
TYCOON "EMERALD ED"
REILLY, PRECISELY ONE
HALF HOUR LATER!

UH--MAYBE IT'S
JUST MY MIDDLE-CLASS
UPBRINGING SHOWING,
DANETTE--BUT THIS
PLACE IS FABULOUS!

YOU COULD
PLAY FOOTBALL IN
THIS ROOM--WITH
PLENTY OF ROOM
LEFT OVER FOR
BLEACHERS!

THIS OLD
PLACE!? DADDY
JUST USES IT WHEN
HE DOESN'T CARE
WHAT'S GOING TO
BE SPILLED ON THE
CARPET.

WELL, I'VE BEEN
TO A FEW "SWELL JOINTS"
SINCE MY MYSTERY NOVELS
STARTED BRINGING IN A
FEW BUCKS--AND AS FAR
AS I'M CONCERNED--THIS
IS BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

MISS
DANETTE
REILLY--
AND PARTY.

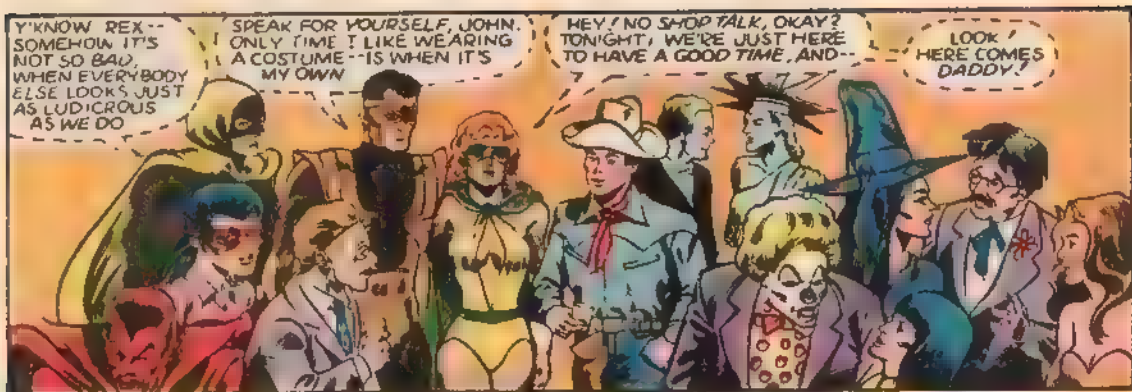
--BUT HOW
MY PAJAMAS
GOT INSIDE
AN ELEPHANT,
I'LL NEVER
KNOW!

HOW MANY
LUMPS, SIR?

WELL, NOT
ACTUALLY--
BUT I MET A
REAL COWBOY
ONCE--!

WHY,
FOURSCORE
AND SEVEN--
WHAT ELSE?

ROY THOMAS * PAUL KUPPERBERG * ARVELL JONES & PABLO MARCOS
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GENE D'ANGELO - COLORIST CODY - LETTERER

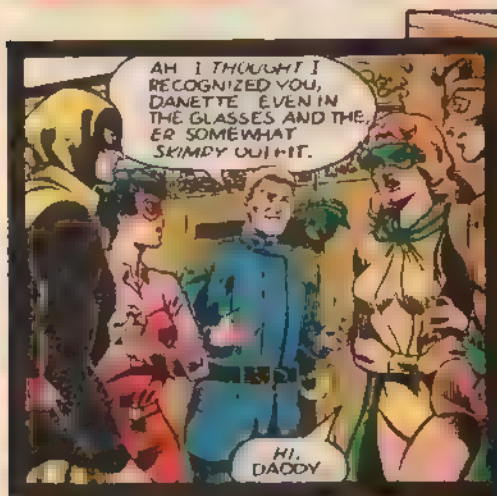


Y'KNOW REX--
SOMEHOW IT'S
NOT SO BAD,
WHEN EVERYBODY
ELSE LOOKS JUST
AS LUDICROUS
AS WE DO

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, JOHN.
ONLY TIME I LIKE WEARING
A COSTUME--IS WHEN IT'S
MY OWN

HEY! NO SHOP TALK, OKAY?
TONIGHT, WE'RE JUST HERE
TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, AND--

LOOK
HERE COMES
DADDY!



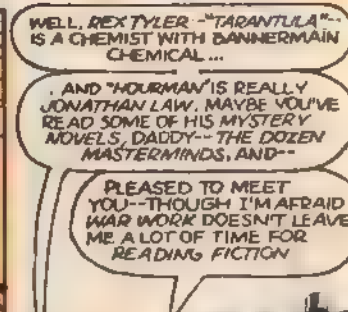
AH I THOUGHT I
RECOGNIZED YOU,
DANETTE. EVEN IN
THE GLASSES AND THE
ER SOMEWHAT
SKIMPY OUTFIT.

HI,
DADDY



...AND DON'T YOU LOOK
DASHING TONIGHT?

THANK YOU,
DARLING. I KNOW
SANDRA, OF COURSE--
BUT WHO ARE YOUR
OTHER YOUNG
FRIENDS?



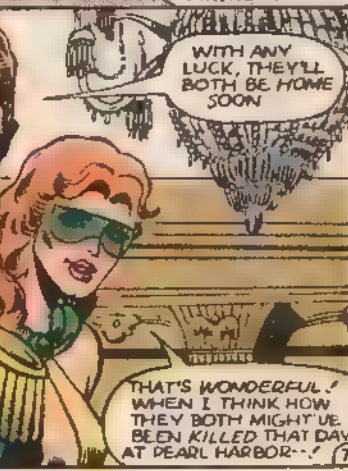
WELL, REX TYLER--"TARANTULA"--
IS A CHEMIST WITH BANNERMAIN
CHEMICAL...

AND "HOURMAN" IS REALLY
JONATHAN LAW. MAYBE YOU'VE
READ SOME OF HIS MYSTERY
NOVELS, DADDY--THE DOZEN
MASTERMINDS, AND--

PLEASED TO MEET
YOU--THOUGH I'M AFRAID
WAR WORK DOESN'T LEAVE
ME A LOT OF TIME FOR
READING FICTION



I'M JUST HAPPY
TO HAVE PEOPLE
LIKE YOU IN THE
STEEL INDUSTRY,
MR. REILLY.



WITH ANY
LUCK, THEY'LL
BOTH BE HOME
SOON

THAT'S WONDERFUL!
WHEN I THINK HOW
THEY BOTH MIGHT'VE
BEEN KILLED THAT DAY
AT PEARL HARBOR--

UH--YES, WELL, I'M GLAD
YOU'RE ALL HERE. MY PARTY
SHOULD BE QUITE SAFE NOW,
WITH SO MANY "MYSTERY-MEN"
ON HAND, EH?



SAFE?
FROM WHAT,
DADDY?

JUST
A LITTLE
JOKE, DEAR

BY THE WAY, DANETTE
I'VE GOTTEN WORD THAT
YOUR BROTHER ROD AND
HIS FRIEND SLUGGER
ARE BEING RELEASED
FROM THAT HOSPITAL
OUT IN SAN
FRANCISCO

*SEE #4--RUY.

7

ROD WOULDN'T HAVE GOT MURT IN THE FIRST PLACE, BY GOD, IF FDR HADN'T GOT US INTO THIS DAMN WAR BY THE BACK DOOR--

--MANEUVERING JAPAN INTO ATTACKING US, BECAUSE HE COULDN'T GET CONGRESS TO DECLARE WAR ON GERMANY.



IT'S THE GOD'S TRUTH, DANETTE. YOU JUST DON'T KNOW THE FULL STORY THE WAY I DO, THAT'S ALL.

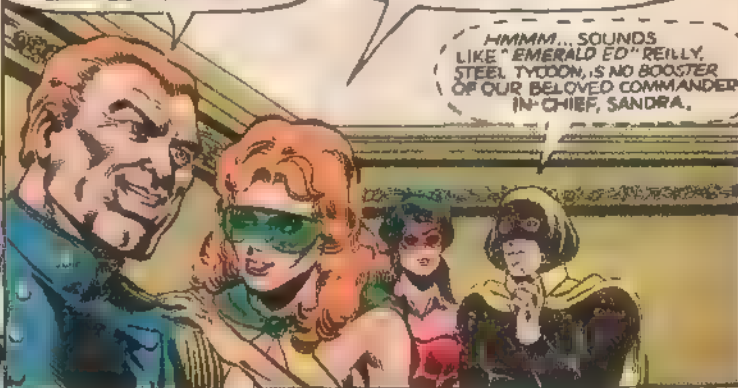
WELL, ACTUALLY-- WE DO HAVE OUR OWN SOURCES...



EVERYBODY KNOWS ROOSEVELT JUST WANTED US IN THIS WAR TO BAIL OUT HIS PRECIOUS NEW DEAL--NOT TO MENTION THE DAMN BRITISH! HE--

NOW, NOW, DADDY-- REMEMBER YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE--PLUS THE FACT THAT YOU KNOW I DON'T AGREE WITH A SINGLE THING YOU JUST SAID.

HMMM... SOUNDS LIKE "EMERALD ED" REILLY. STEEL TYCOON, IS NO BOOSTER OF OUR BELOVED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, SANDRA.



I'M SURE, WELL, YOU MUST EXCUSE ME, ALL OF YOU--BUT I MUST MINGLE WITH MY OTHER GUESTS.



MY IMAGINATION, DANETTE-- OR DOES YOUR FATHER SEEM A LITTLE BIT NERVOUS, EVEN FOR A GUY GIVING A SWANK PARTY?

ORDINARILY, HIS NERVES ARE AS HARD AS STEEL, JOHN--BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. I WONDER WHY?



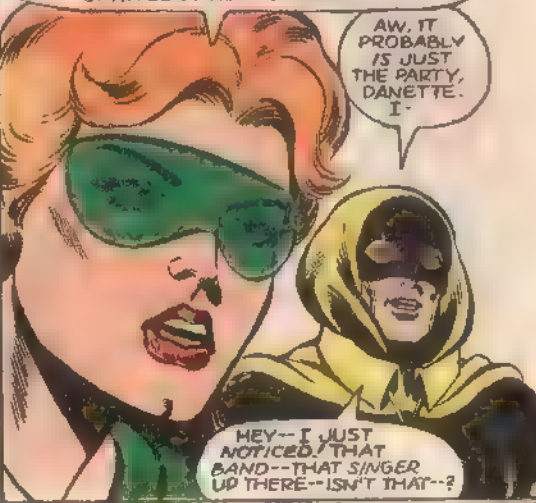
MAYBE IT'S JUST THE PRESSURE OF THOSE WAR CONTRACTS--KEEPING THINGS MOVING.

I MEAN, I KNOW HE DOESN'T CARE MUCH FOR ENGLAND--HIS IRISH BACKGROUND, AND ALL--



STILL, I'D LIKE HE'S WAY TOO SMART TO LET THOSE GRIEVANCES BLIND HIM TO THE EVILS OF HITLER AND HIS GANG.

AW, IT PROBABLY IS JUST THE PARTY, DANETTE. I--



HEY--I JUST NOTICED! THAT BAND--THAT SINGER UP THERE--ISN'T THAT--?

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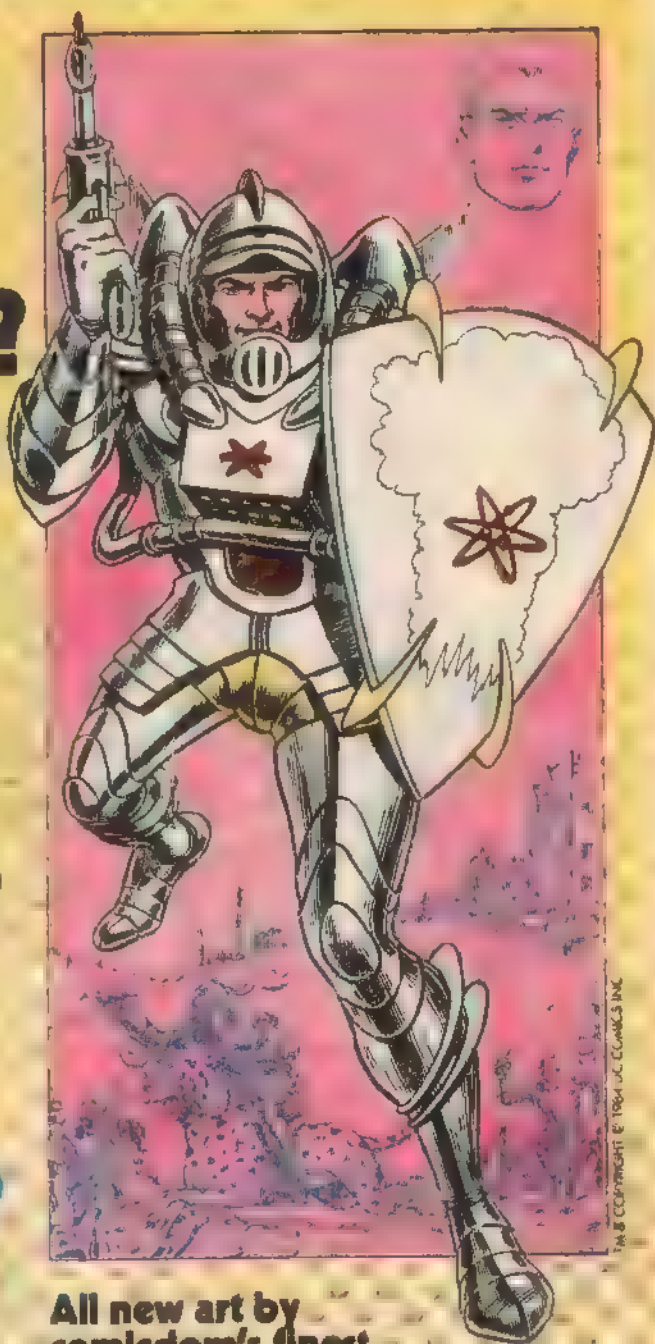


A 24-ISSUE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY MAXI-SERIES

Do you know me?

Probably not! Few people do, since I only recently made my dramatic debut in this new and different identity! I've been around for years under another guise, but aside from Superman, nobody remembers that! That's why I carry **Who's Who: The Definitive Directory of the DC Universe**! One quick glance at my biography and friends from a previous lifetime know what they've been missing!

THE ATOMIC KNIGHT™



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old career without it!

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. IT'S TRULY A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH OUR GOOD FRIEND, "EMERALD ED" REILLY.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF MR. TOMMY DORSEY AND MYSELF, WE JUST HOPE YOU'RE HAVING AS GOOD A TIME AS WE ARE.

AND NOW, HERE'S A LITTLE NUMBER WE RECORDED A FEW WEEKS AGO. HOPE YOU LIKE IT...

"I LOVE NEW YORK IN JUNE... HOW ABOUT YOU?..."

THAT SINATRA'S DREAMY, ISN'T HE, JOHN? BUT I'VE HEARD HE WANTS TO LEAVE THE BAND—STRIKE OUT ON HIS OWN—

WHAT? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ASK ME TO DANCE, MR. TYLER?

I WOULD, GORGEOUS... BUT I FIGURE YOU VALUE YOUR TOOTSIES TOO MUCH TO WANT TO RISK IT.

HE'S A DREAMER, THEN, SANDRA. NOBODY'S MADE IT BIG ON THE SOLO ROUTE SINCE CROSBY.

NOT BAD, THOUGH... FOR A LEAD SINGER.

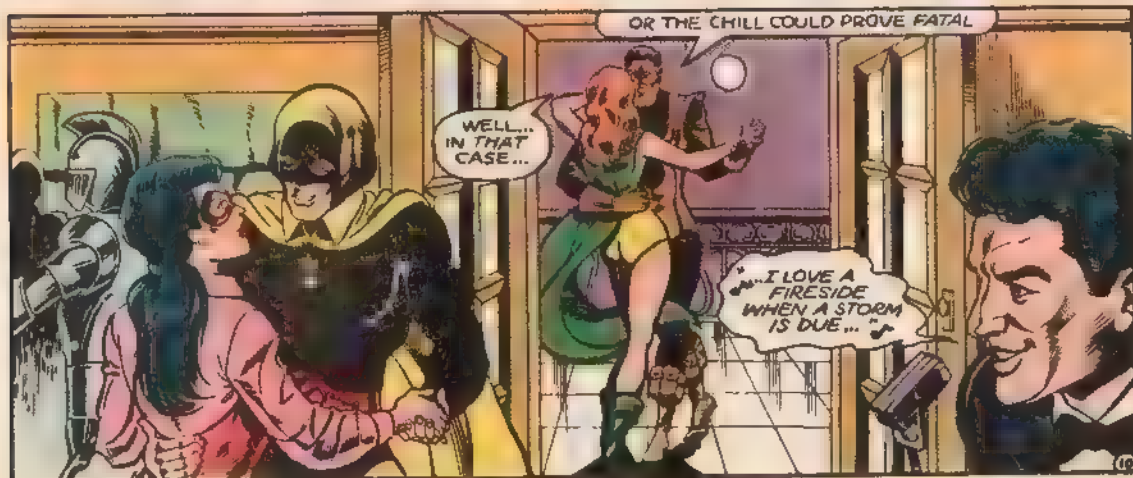
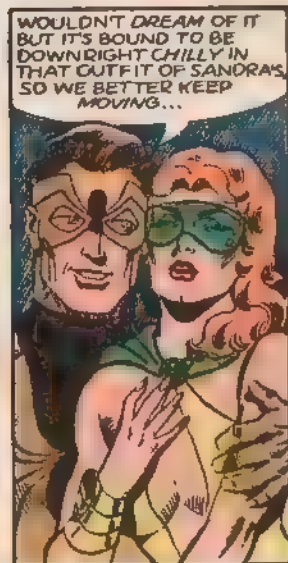
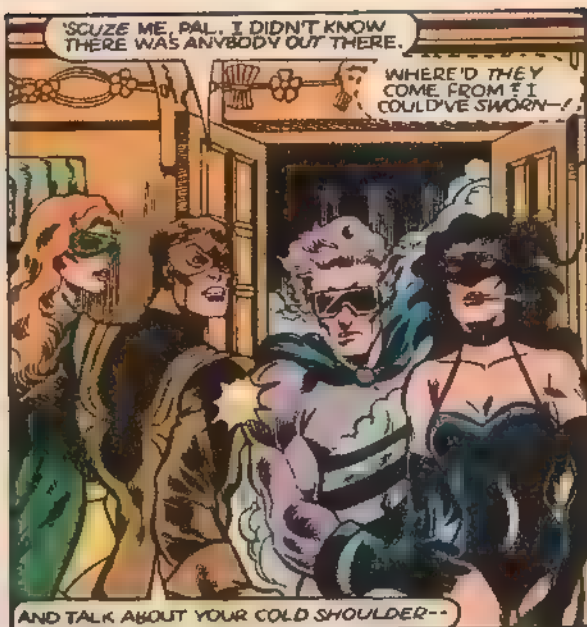
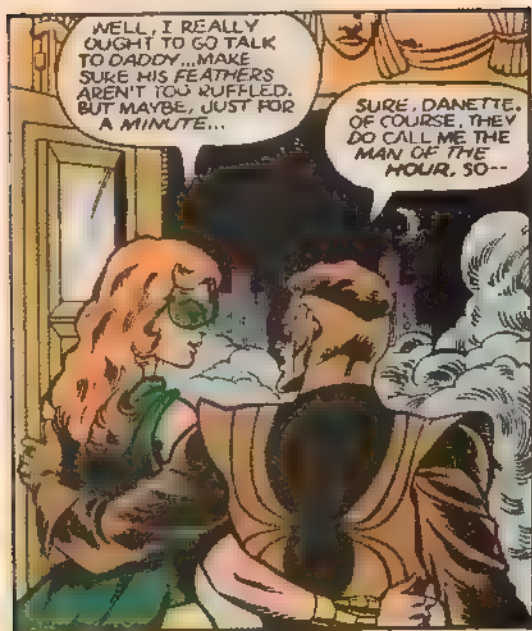
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY—MAYBE WE'D BETTER SIT THIS ONE OUT.

WELL, MAYBE NOT SIT, EXACTLY.

...BUT IT'D SURE BE A LOT LESS STUFFY OUT ON THE BALCONY

NOT TO MENTION DESERTED?

HEY, I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT. BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...



MEANWHILE...

... SO I TOLD THE DUCHESS I SIMPLY COULDN'T MISS YOUR LITTLE SOIRÉE, MR. REILLY. IT WILL BE THE TALK OF THE SEASON.'

I'M HONORED
BY YOUR
PRESENCE, MRS.
VAN DONALD.
I --

AND OUR
PRESENCE,
MR REILLY?

五

ARE YOU NOT
PLEASED TO
SEE US HERE,
AS WELL?

QUIET!
WE MUST
NOT SPEAK
OUT HERE

OKAY, LADIES AND GENTS--WE'RE GOING TO SHIFT INTO HIGH GEAR NOW, SO GRAB YOUR PARTNER'S--

--AND
JITTERBUG!

WHY, JONATHAN
LAW, I NEVER
DREAMED BEST-
SELLING
AUTHORS HAD
TIME TO LEARN
HOW TO CUT A
PUG.

I... WAS EXPECTING YOU.
WE'LL GO TO MY STUDY.

GOT TO EXERCISE
MY FEET AS WELL
AS MY TYPING
FINGER, SANDRA
LET'S GO."

ACH, GUT,
HERR REILLY
WE MAY SPEAK
MORE FREELY
HERE, NEIN?

ONLY FOR A MINUTE, MISTER
YOU AND ME--WE REALLY DON'T
HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK
ABOUT--NOT ANYMORE.

COME NOW, MEIN HERR
YOU ARE NO FOOL--AND
NEITHER ARE WE.

YOU KNOW
WHY WE
ARE HERE--
WHAT WE
WANT.

CANNOT YOU SEE HE IS BUT STALLING. FRÄULEIN?

DOES THIS FOOL
THINK WE DO NOT
KNOW WHAT HE
HAS BEEN DOING
FOR MORE THAN
TWO YEARS--

--AIDING
THE AXIS
CAUSE AND
BETRAYING
THAT OF THE
ALLIES?

NOW, YOU LOOK HERE,
WHATEVER YOUR NAME
IS, I'M NO TRAITOR--
AND ANY MAN WHO
TRIES TO CALL ME
ONE--

WE ARE NOT
INTERESTED
IN A DISPLAY OF
YOUR MASCULINE
BRAVADO, HERR
REILLY...

NOR DO WE CARE TO
HEAR ANY OF YOUR
BLARNEY-RICH
EXCUSES.

JUST LISTEN
TO US, MEIN
HERR...

WH-WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO
YOU, WOMAN?
WHO ARE
YOU?

LISTEN AND
OBEY OR ELSE
YOU SHALL FEEL
THE COLD,
NUMBING
WRATH--

--OF NIGHT
AND FOG!

"... 'CAUSE MY BIM-BAM BABY'S
COMIN' HOME TONIGHT..."

REX?

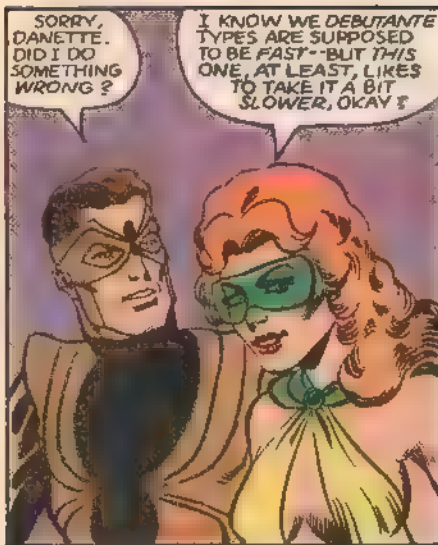
HNIMM?
I THOUGHT I HEARD
AN ANGEL CALLING
MY NAME

AREN'T
WE A
LITTLE BIT
OUT OF STEP
WITH THE
MUSIC?

HEY, LET EVERYBODY
ELSE DANCE THE WAY
THEY WANT, YOU AND
ME--

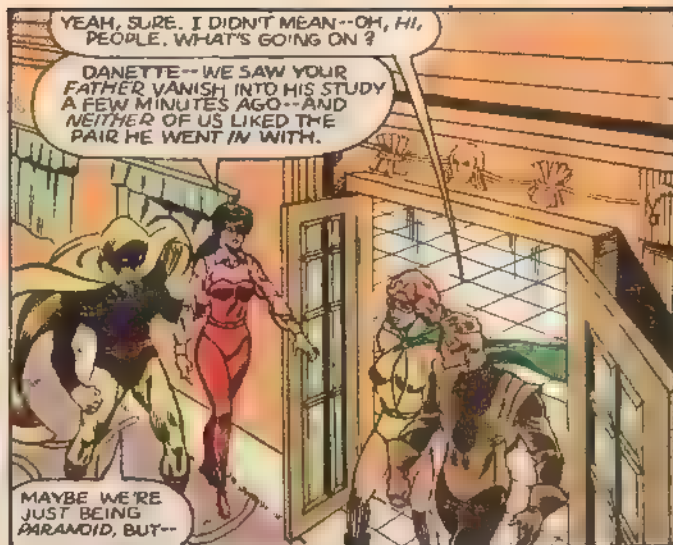
--WE'LL MAKE UP OUR OWN--MUM?

NOT.
JUST YET.
REX.
PLEASE.



SORRY, DANETTE. DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

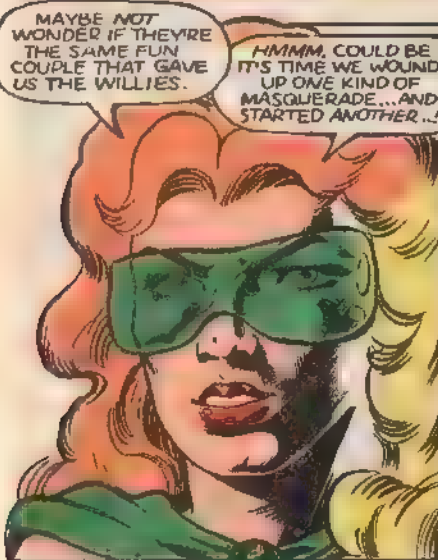
I KNOW WE DEBUTANTE TYPES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FAST--BUT THIS ONE, AT LEAST, LIKES TO TAKE IT A BIT SLOWER, OKAY?



YEAH, SURE. I DIDN'T MEAN--OH, HI, PEOPLE. WHAT'S GOING ON?

DANETTE--WE SAW YOUR FATHER VANISH INTO HIS STUDY A FEW MINUTES AGO--AND NEITHER OF US LIKED THE PAIR HE WENT IN WITH.

MAYBE WE'RE JUST BEING PARANOID, BUT--

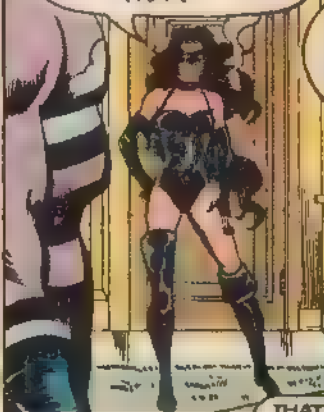


MAYBE NOT WONDER IF THEY'RE THE SAME FUN COUPLE THAT GAVE US THE WILLIES.

HMMM, COULD BE IT'S TIME WE WOUND UP ONE KIND OF MASQUERADE...AND STARTED ANOTHER...

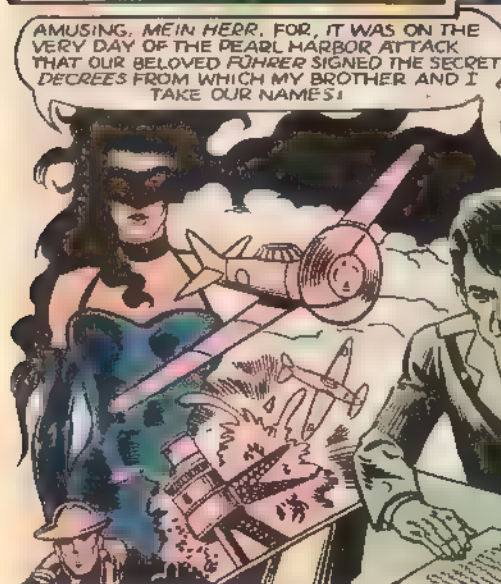
DO YOU DENY, HERR REILLY, THAT YOUR ACTIONS AS AN IRISH-AMERICAN STEEL MAGNATE HAVE BEEN TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE ALLIES SINCE SEPTEMBER 1939?

I'LL--I'LL ADMIT I'VE DRAGGED MY FEET--TRIED TO SLOW DOWN PRODUCTION OF BALL BEARINGS AND OTHER WAR MATERIALS--



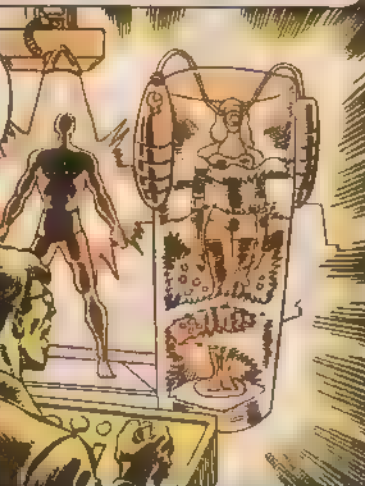
BUT THAT WAS WHEN THE AXIS WAS JUST FIGHTING RUSSIA--AND THE BRITISH, WHOM I'VE ALWAYS HATED

THAT WAS BEFORE PEARL HARBOR--BEFORE AMERICA GOT INTO THE WAR--!

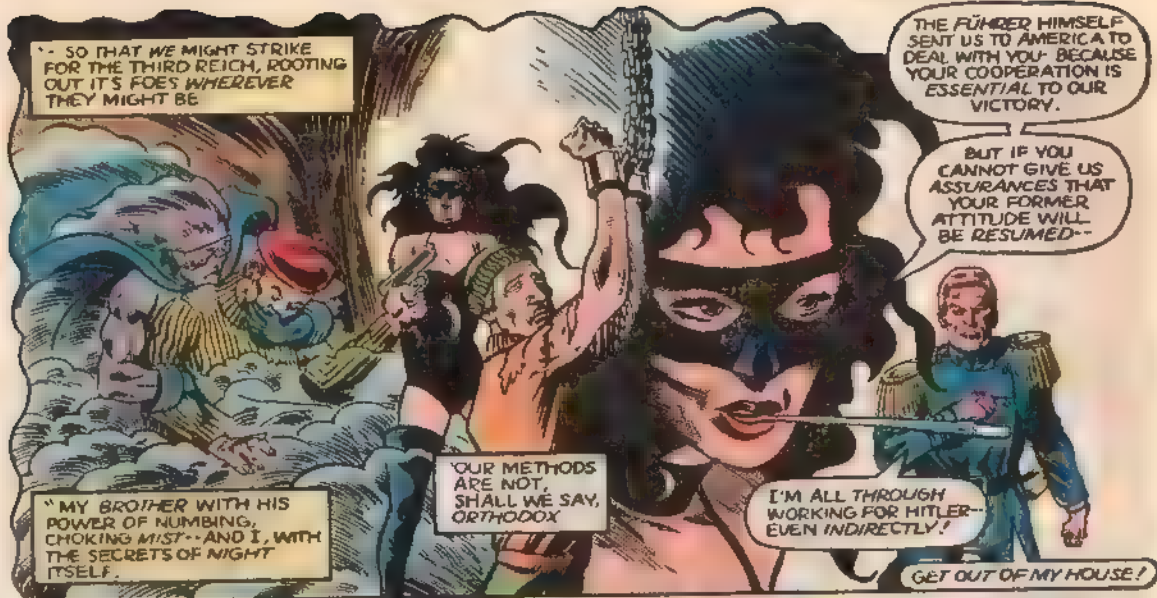


AMUSING, MEIN HERR, FOR, IT WAS ON THE VERY DAY OF THE PEARL HARBOR ATTACK THAT OUR BELOVED FÜHRER SIGNED THE SECRET DECREES FROM WHICH MY BROTHER AND I TAKE OUR NAMES!

"NACHT UND NEBEL"--THE "NIGHT AND FOG"--INTO WHICH POTENTIAL ENEMIES OF THE REICH IN THE CONQUERED WESTERN NATIONS WERE HENCEFORTH TO DISAPPEAR!



SOON AFTERWARD, OUR SUPERIOR SCIENTISTS TRANSFORMED US INTO THE VERY PERSONIFICATION OF THOSE DECREES...



-- SO THAT WE MIGHT STRIKE FOR THE THIRD REICH, ROOTING OUT IT'S FOES WHEREVER THEY MIGHT BE

THE FÜHRER HIMSELF SENT US TO AMERICA TO DEAL WITH YOU-- BECAUSE YOUR COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR VICTORY.

BUT IF YOU CANNOT GIVE US ASSURANCES THAT YOUR FORMER ATTITUDE WILL BE RESUMED--

"MY BROTHER WITH HIS POWER OF NUMBING, CHOKING MIST-- AND I, WITH THE SECRETS OF NIGHT ITSELF.

OUR METHODS ARE NOT, SHALL WE SAY, ORTHODOX

I'M ALL THROUGH WORKING FOR HITLER-- EVEN INDIRECTLY!

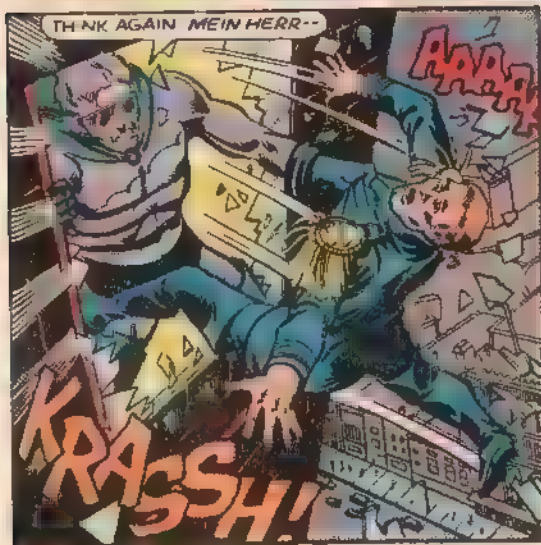
GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!



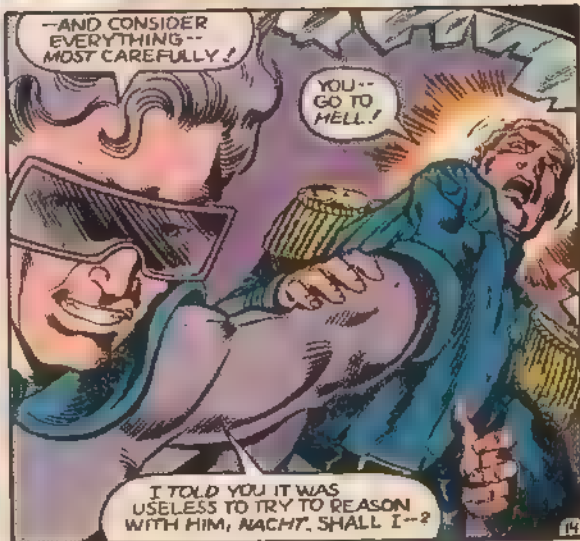
DID YOU NOT HEAR MY SISTER, HERR REILLY? YOU ARE OURS-- OR YOU ARE DEAD!

THEN KILL ME! I'M NOT PROUD OF WHAT I'VE DONE ALREADY-- BUT THAT WAS BEFORE I LEARNED ABOUT YOUR CONCENTRATION CAMPS-- YOUR POLICIES OF MASS MURDER!

TILL THIS DAMN WAR'S OVER, I'M WORKING FOR AMERICA-- WHETHER THEIR ALLY IS BRITAIN, OR RUSSIA, OR THE DEVIL HIMSELF!



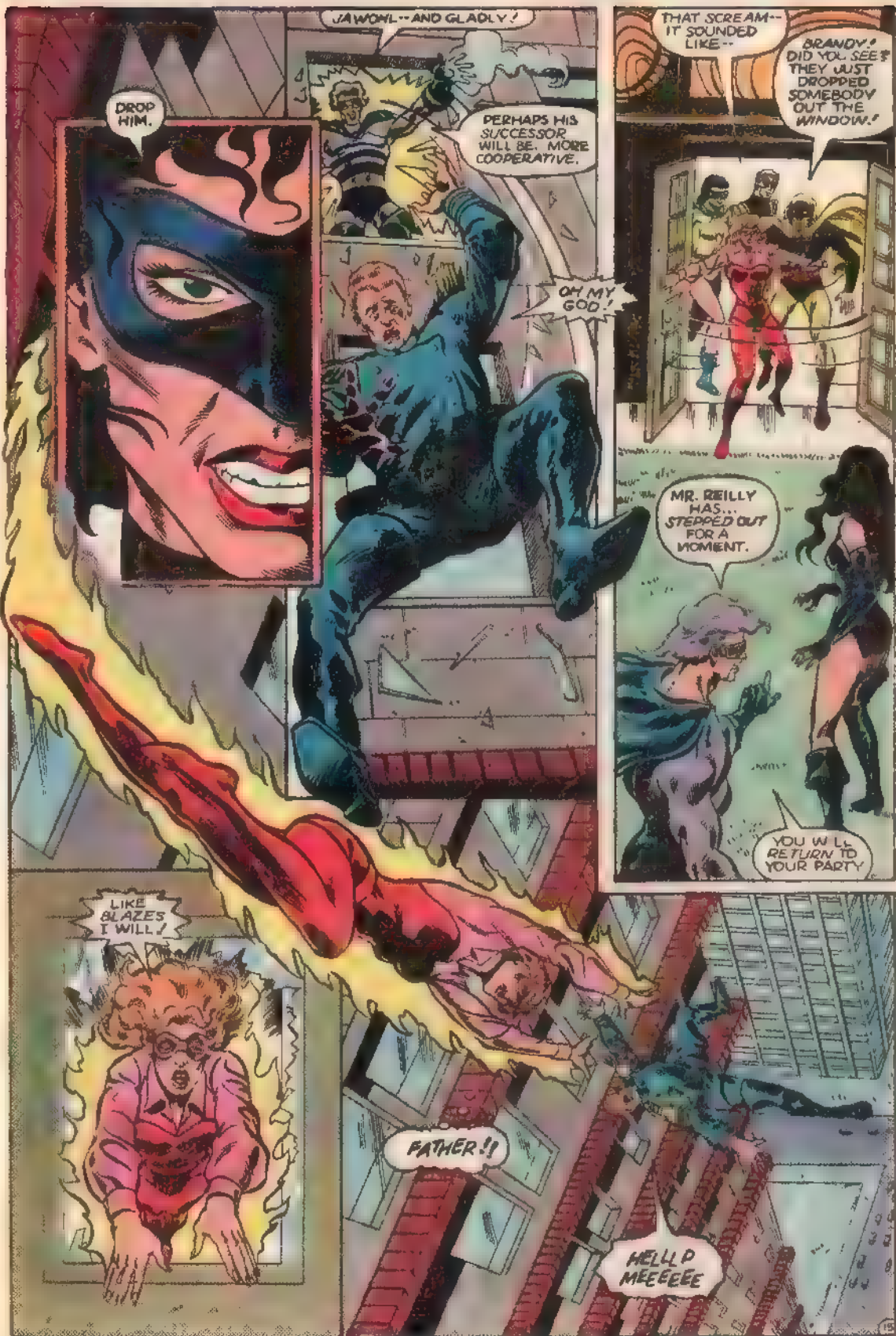
THINK AGAIN MEIN HERR--



--AND CONSIDER EVERYTHING-- MOST CAREFULLY!

YOU-- GO TO HELL!

I TOLD YOU IT WAS USELESS TO TRY TO REASON WITH HIM, NACHT. SHALL I--?



DROP HIM.

JA WOHL--AND GLADLY!

PERHAPS HIS SUCCESSOR WILL BE MORE COOPERATIVE.

OH MY GOD!

THAT SCREAM-- IT SOUNDED LIKE--

BRANDY! DID YOU SEE? THEY JUST DROPPED SOMEBODY OUT THE WINDOW!

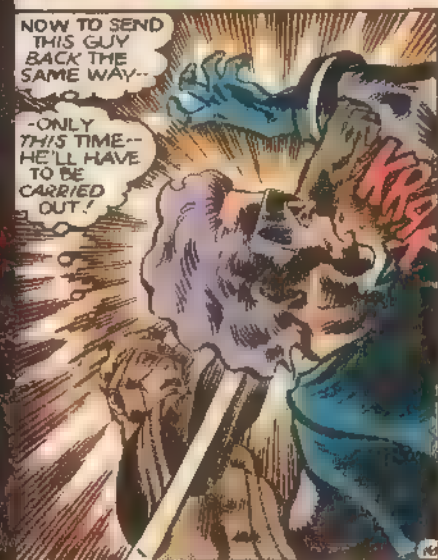
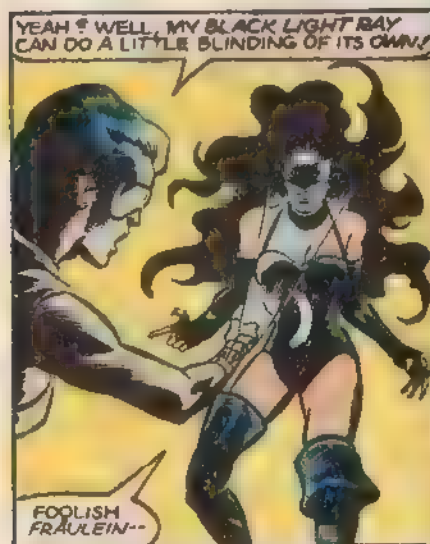
MR. REILLY HAS... STEPPED OUT FOR A MOMENT.

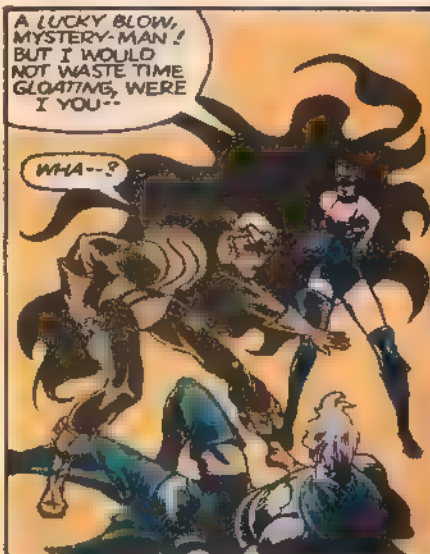
YOU WILL RETURN TO YOUR PARTY

LIKE GLAZES I WILL!

FATHER!!

HELL D MEEEEEE





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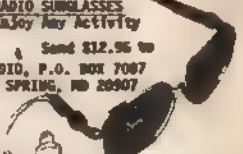
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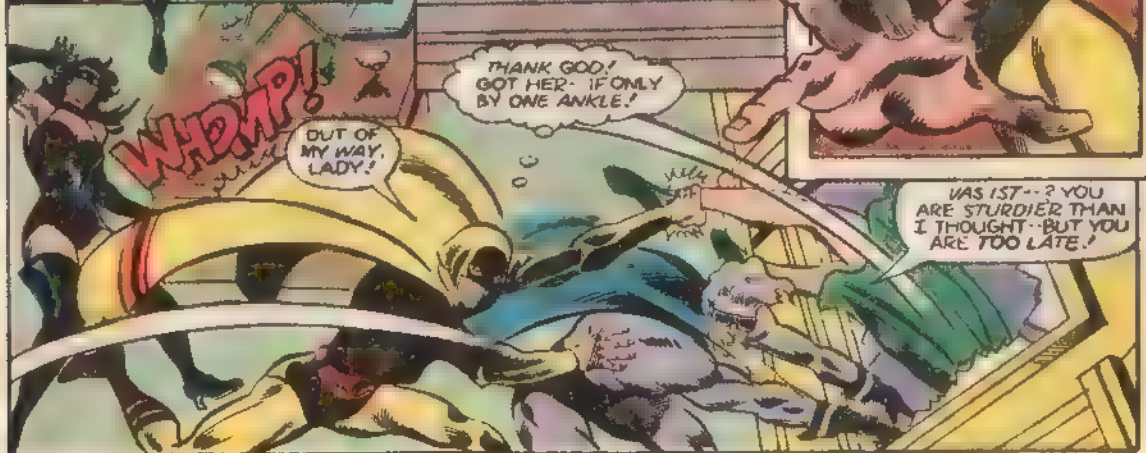
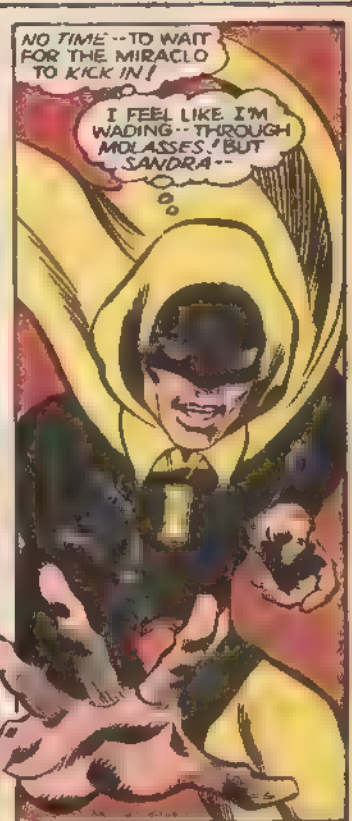
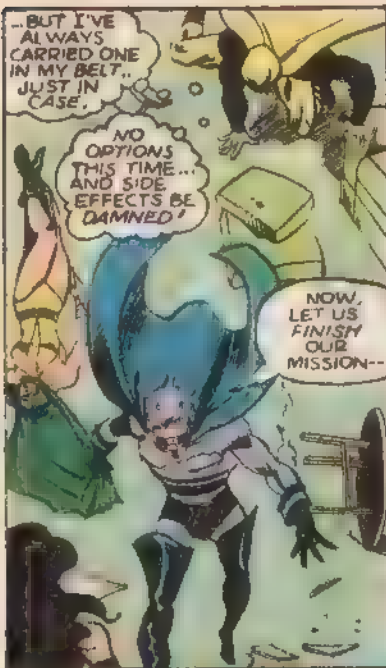
Worlds will live.
Worlds will die.
And the DC Universe
will never be the same!

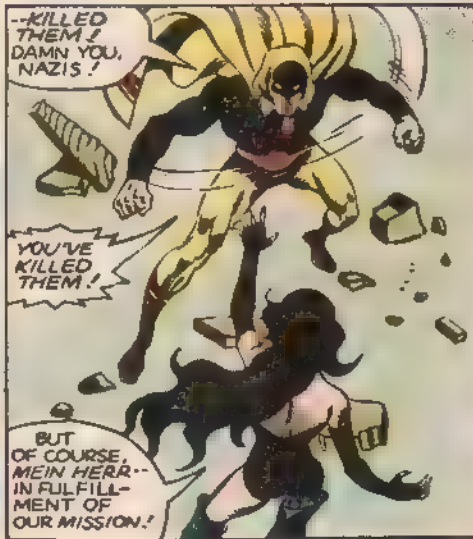
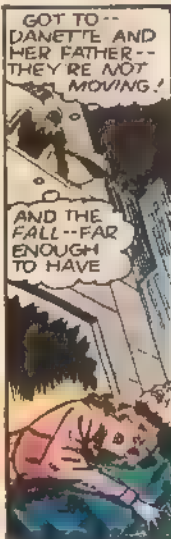


CRISIS

ON INFINITE EARTHS

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--YOUR DEMISE HAS
BECOME A PRIORITY,
AS WELL!

OBSERVE--AS
I SEND MY
NAME SAKE NIGHT
TO ENGLUF YOU
IN ITS ICY, DARK
EMBRACE!

MY GOD!
I--I CAN'T
SEE--CAN'T
EVEN--

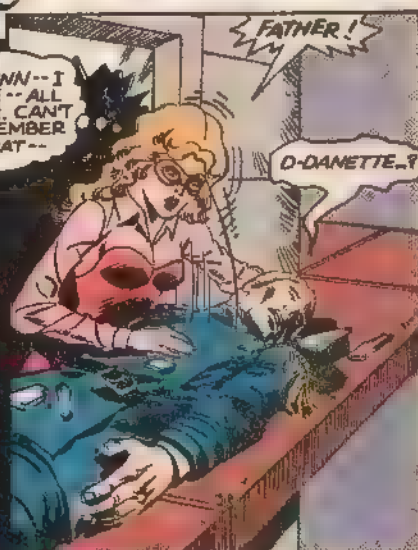


--FEEL.



OH, BUT YOU DO FEEL,
AMERICAN. YOU FEEL
YOURSELF SLIPPING
DEEPER, EVER DEEPER
INTO THE BLACKNESS.

UHHNN--I
ACHE--ALL
OVER. CAN'T
REMEMBER
WHAT--



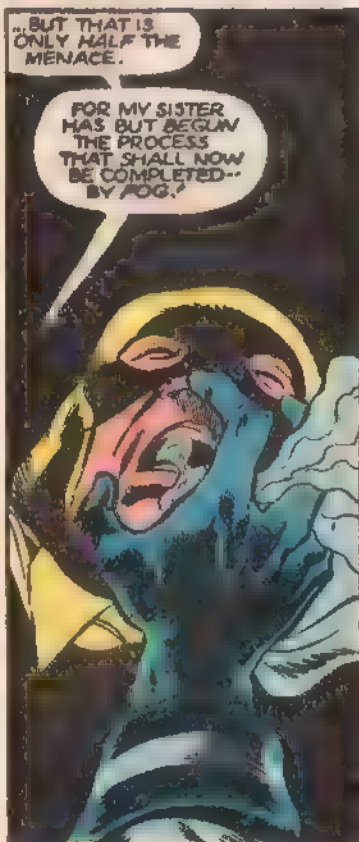
FATHER!

D-DANETTE..?



YES, IT'S ME! YOU--YOU'RE
GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT,
DO YOU HEAR ME? I'LL
GET YOU HELP...

NO...SWEETHEART,
TOO LATE... FOR THAT. (20)



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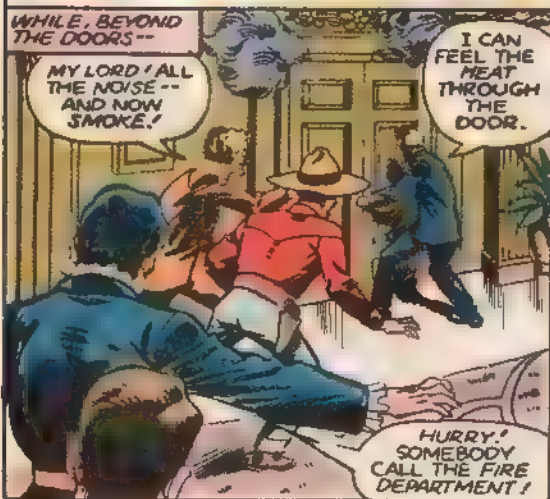
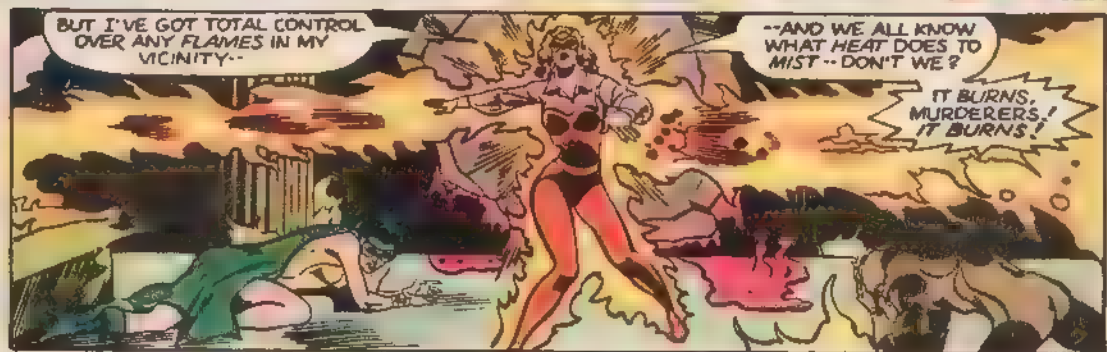
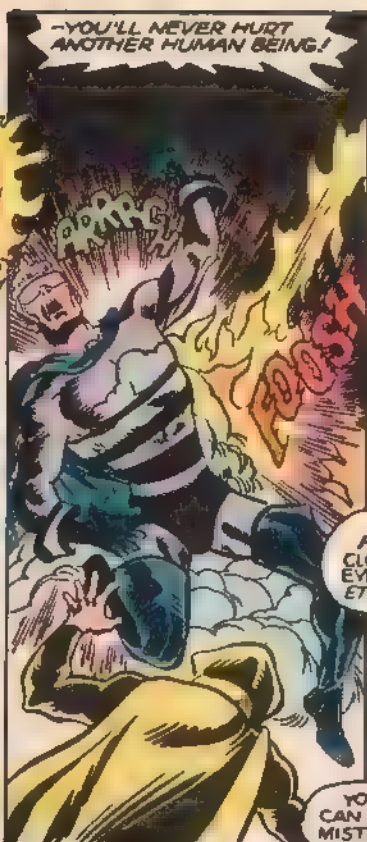
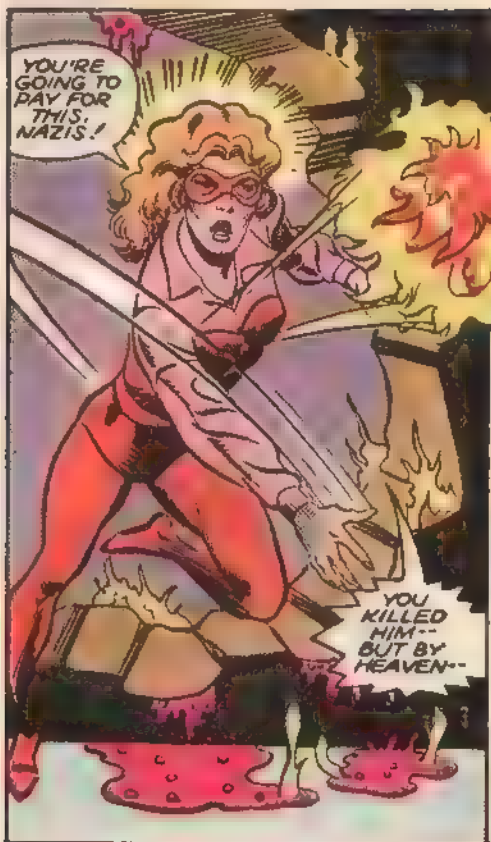
The Magic Is Back!

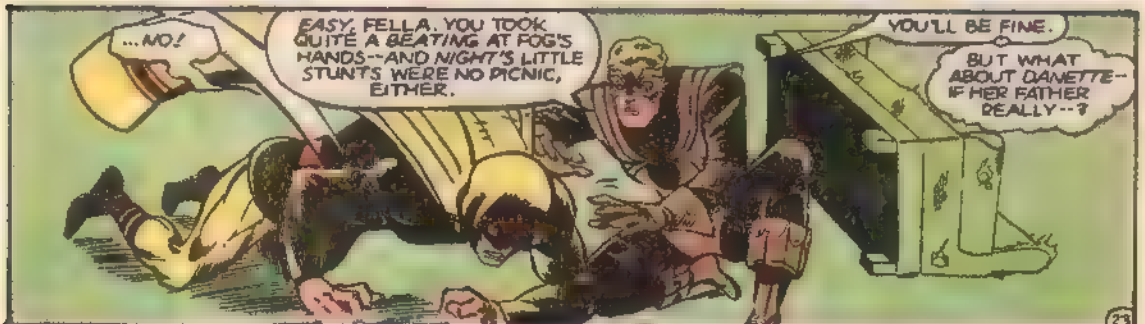
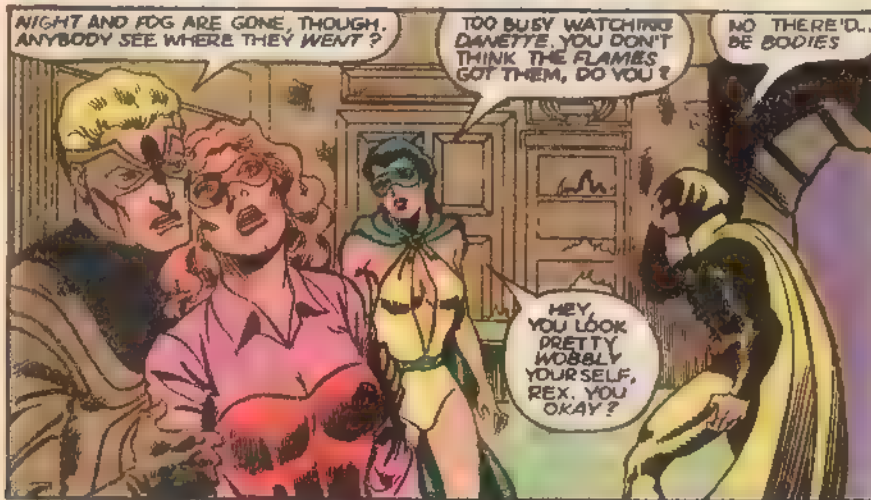
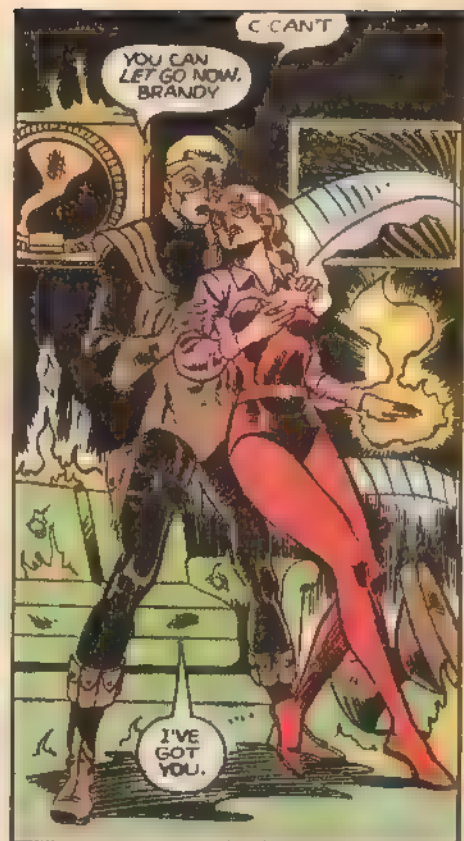


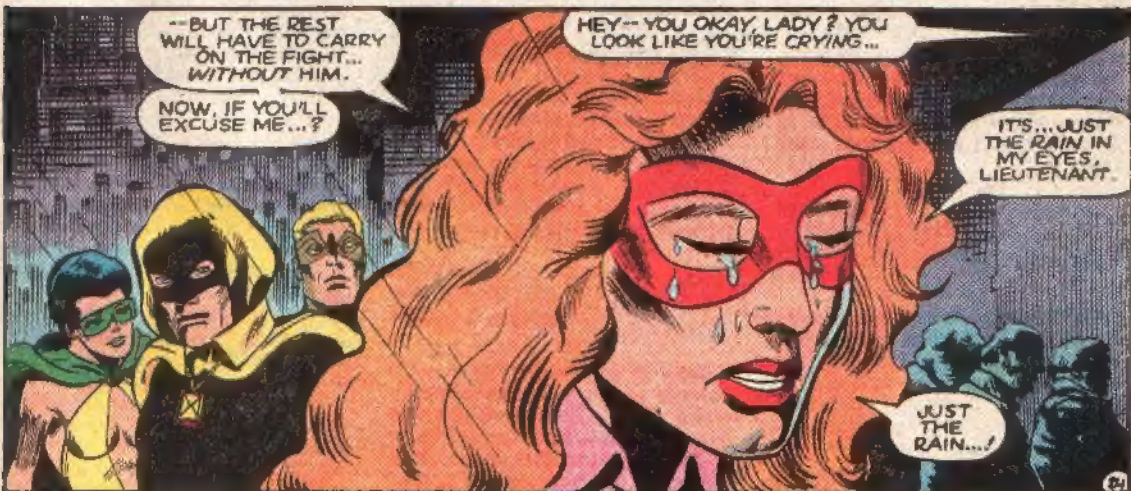
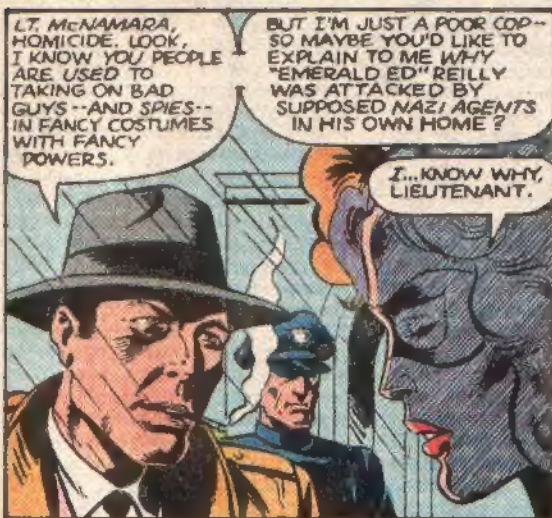
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ARION
LORD OF ATLANTIS™







ASK NOT FOR WHOM THE LIBERTY BELL TOLLS! IT TOLLS FOR--
NEXT: BARON BLITZKRIEG--AND FRIENDS!

ALL-STAR SQUADROOM



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Dear Roy,

I must admit that my first reaction to ALL-STAR SQUADRON #39 was: Here we go again—another Great Social Crusader valiantly fighting a battle that has already been won. But almost before I turned from the cover to the first page, I was rebuking myself for it. Firstly, this is a "historical" comic book, portraying a world in which things are not as they are today. But secondly, and more importantly, the battle against racism has not been truly or completely won; even though racism has been forced largely underground, it still exists and, in some ways, thrives. Racism is a restriction of freedom and, as has been said by persons wiser than I, the battle to attain and preserve freedom must be won anew every day.

The story itself was surprisingly less clear-cut than I had imagined it would be. Though comparisons between Nazi Germany and wartime America are, of course, ludicrous, it is still clear that many evils were tolerated in the name of fighting what was perceived to be a far greater evil. Maybe FDR was right, that America could not both fight Hitler and suffer the upheaval that would surely have accompanied attempts to establish true racial justice. Still, this does little to justify injustice to those who suffered from it.

It is difficult to discuss racism without coming off as if you're trying to be a saint or a devil. You, Roy, managed to avoid these pitfalls in ALL-STAR SQUADRON #39; I hope I have done it in this letter, too. A problem that cannot be discussed will remain intractable, even though most attempts to discuss it, such as mine here, will be lacking in many respects.

"T.M. Maple"
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, ONT M9L2R9
Canada

Your letter speaks for itself as well as it does for our intentions, "T.M." Nor is the matter of Detroit finished forever in these pages—but events will unfold at our usual pace (approximately one month of "real time" circa 1942 for each year of "comic-book time").

Roy:

Correction, please! In ALL-STAR SQUADRON #39, Amazing-Man's fiancée Rachel drops A. Philip Randolph's name as if it were a holy

talisman that placed him and whatever he did on behalf of U.S. blacks beyond criticism. Unfortunately, this is a naive notion.

I have before me a paperback copy of media professional Alan Stang's *It's Very Simple: The True Story of Civil Rights*, published by Western Islands, the semi-independent publishing arm of the John Birch Society. The JBS and other patriotic organizations, including the largely black Alliance, Inc., have done much in recent decades to show and prove the alarming degree of Soviet-motivated communist influence in racial agitation begun in 1918. Mister Stang's book goes a long way toward developing an appreciation for the problem.

On page 86 Stang calls Randolph's being named the National Negro Congress' first chairman in 1947 "a crowning achievement for the communists," as the NNC was a communist operation. Randolph evidently went on to bigger and better things: On p.128 of *It's Very Simple* Stang reports Randolph as being AFL-CIO Sleeping Car Porters Brotherhood president, 1963 Washington March chairman, and NAACP 1961 national VP. According to the July 29, 1963, *Congressional Record*, all this while simultaneously associated with twenty organizations identified as hard-core communist fronts by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as early as 1958!

By the way, Alan Stang is a John Birch Society member, as am I. There is one important difference between us, though. I'm WASP and Stang is Jewish. Both of us respect and admire our fellow JBS members who happen to be black. Was someone about to say something akin to accusing the John Birch Society of being racist and anti-Semitic? I didn't think so. Have a nice day, now.

Steve Smith
581 Douglas Way
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Never at any time in the story did anybody except (possibly) Rachel indicate that A. Philip Randolph was beyond criticism. And Rachel was, of course, just a character in a made-up scene in a fictitious tale, just as Mrs. Everett and Johnny Quick and Liberty Belle were. The whole point of the exchange was simply to provide the reader, hopefully in a fairly dramatic way (always a problem in historical novels and the like, a category into

which ALL-STAR SQUADRON possibly fits at least as neatly as it does into the traditional category of "comic-books"), with the information that while Eleanor Roosevelt was very active in race relations all her long life, her President husband was not—either before or during World War Two. His relative insensitivity to legitimate black issues was, I suspect, part and parcel with his going along with the clerics to herd all Japanese-Americans into detention centers (as shown in issue #30). FDR was, to use a phrase from the previous letter, neither "a saint or a devil."

Perhaps that was true of Randolph, also. I don't know—and at this late date, I don't care. Even if the Civil Rights movement were found to be in regular communication with the Kremlin, it wouldn't invalidate most black claims of injustice done to their race over the years. If the cause of racial equality was for years unfortunately left to communists in certain areas—again, I say it—then it merely shows that the good "Democrats" and "freedom-loving people" of this country were asleep at the switch, to have allowed such conditions as the "separate-but-equal" travesty and other forms of racial discrimination to have existed for nearly a century after the Civil War.

I've nothing against the John Birch Society, either, despite an unpleasant run-in with a couple of over-avid members during the 1964 Presidential campaign. But I'm certainly not going to condemn the cause, or even the name, of A. Philip Randolph on the basis of HUAC findings, either, since the "guilt-by-association" of the so-called McCarthy years was as distasteful to me as anything the real "Reds" ever did. As someone once said, a lot of these 1960's crusaders "gave anti-communism a bad name." For that, and for the lives and careers of men and women ruthlessly ruined and slandered, I still hold them accountable.

(And no, I've never been a total supporter of everything CORE, SNCC, the Black Panthers, the NAACP, or anybody else ever did, either.)

I'm just a writer—an American writer of German descent, using at present the medium of the super-hero comic-book, which I happen to love—trying something a bit different from a run-of-the-mill action tale.

—R.T.



MEANWHILE...

1985 promises to be our best year yet. I say that with some confidence because I have worked for the last year with DC's editorial staff to line up the best mini-series, annuals, maxi-series, and specials that we could possibly do. It's our 50th anniversary and that means a lot to us! For the next 12 months you are going to watch us salute the best of our past and prepare for the next 50 years.

In coming months you will be treated to revivals of mainline characters such as Hawkman (starting next month), Aquaman, Zatanna, and the Red Tornado in their own exciting mini-series. We'll have another **SWORD OF THE ATOM SPECIAL** and bring you a **LEGION OF SUBSTITUTE HEROES SPECIAL** and a **GREEN ARROW SPECIAL**. Gil Kane and Jan Strnad have a maxi-series in the offing, and Doug Moench has two very special projects planned for this year.

But I didn't come here to talk about those. No, today I'm here to talk about what I consider to be the centerpiece of our anniversary celebration: **CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS** and **WHO'S WHO: THE DEFINITIVE DIRECTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE**. These have both been in the planning stages for nearly four years and they are finally ready to be unleashed upon the public.

It all started when Marv Wolfman and Len Wein suggested we do a history of the DC Universe maxi-series to help straighten out some of the confusing continuity that has cropped up—as is expected from any creative company in business for 50 years. This project required a great deal of research and we brought in fan Peter Sanderson to read just about every comic we have ever published. Bleary-eyed, Peter filled two gigantic notebooks with notes about our characters. From this, Len and Marv thought it would be easy to craft the maxi-series and have it all make sense.

Well, it took a little more time than they anticipated, so we held the entire project off until this year so it would coincide with this celebration. As they got more enthusiastic about the story, I got caught up in the creative flow and encouraged them to get even more

daring. From that grew what George Pérez named **CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS**. Marv created an enigmatic character, The Monitor, to be the catalyst, and since last year (actually longer, since he first appeared back in **TEEN TITANS ANNUAL #2**) this mysterious figure has popped up in almost all of our books.

Meanwhile, the storyline grew and grew and we knew this was becoming something too big for just one series. Thus, we created the **WHO'S WHO**, which will act as the companion piece for this series. The first issue of the **WHO'S WHO** came out last month and will continue for 24 months until every single one of our super-powered heroes and villains is catalogued.

Using Peter's research, newly hired Bob Greenberger prepared the notes and consulted with Len and Marv as they tackled the overwhelming task before them. After years in the making, both series are here and I am very proud of the finished results.

Enough history, let me tell you about these series. First off, the **CRISIS**, written by Marv and penciled by George, is a major storyline that will affect each and every one of our DC titles. It's a story about the parallel worlds concept—the one Julie Schwartz created in 1963 with his famous story "The Flash of Two Worlds"—and therefore it will bring into play everyone from the Golden-Age Superman to the Legion of Super-Heroes. Characters unseen in years will be seen once more and lots of confusing matters will be cleared up.

In the first issue alone we watch a familiar world fade from existence and see the Monitor for the first time. We'll be treated to the teaming of 15 very unlikely characters, plus the introduction of 3 new people, each of whom will play a major role in the story.

It's 12 issues, some of which will be double-sized, and the first one, now on sale, is a 32-page story with no ads and only 75¢ (our first anniversary present to you).

As the ads say, worlds will live, worlds will die, and the DC Universe will never be the same.

As I have reported in this space, we have been holding frequent meetings over the last year with the complete editorial staff to refine our ideas and get input from everyone who will be concerned with these series. The

meetings have continued and at times we brought in people from our marketing and business departments to get immediate approval of proposed changes. This is a group effort and one I am very proud to take part in.

Let me take a moment to discuss change. Many people, usually ardent fans of a series, resist change because they fear it will ruin what they have come to love. Yes, this can happen, but since every one of our writers and editors is working with Len, Marv, and me on the projects, we're making sure that the changes will be positive ones.

And they will be permanent ones.

While some characters will die or retire, others will come into the spotlight for the first time. People's allegiances will alter, as will powers and costumes. This isn't change for the sake of change but the next step in the evolutionary process. And it's a step designed to make us viable for the next 50 years—and beyond.

Now, of course, you can't tell the players in a game this huge without a scorecard. And that's the **WHO'S WHO**. Primarily written and edited by Len, each issue will be 32 pages without ads, featuring all-new artwork by the biggest names in the entire comics industry, and all the facts you need to know about who these people are, where they came from, and what they can do is inside. The art is designed to show you the characters in and out of costume and using their unique abilities.

When finished, the 24-issue series will stand as our Bible. Budding artists can refer to this as a guide to what our characters look like, while new-talent writers will know the basics about why these people do the things they do. Len is saving the last few issues for updates so that changes occurring in the **CRISIS** will be reflected almost immediately.

Confidentially, I suspect Len, Marv, George, Bob, and maybe even me, since I'm inking the **CRISIS**, will all be ready for a padded room long before these series conclude.

You won't want to miss either of these series because, if you do, you'll miss out on the most exciting thing to happen to DC Comics since Superman first saw print. Quite a boast, but believe me, when this year is over, it will be a whole new ballgame and a game we're really excited about.

Join us and don't miss a thing!
Thank You and Good Afternoon.

DPAC



DC
ON SALE WEEK
CHECK
OF JANUARY 24
LIST

☐ Action Comics 566: Superman teams with Captain Strong!

☐ Detective Comics 549: The Calendar Man returns with art by Pat Broderick!

☐ Jonah Hex 90: Gray Morrow joins the book as regular artist!

☐ Tales of the Legion of Super-Heroes 322: Brainiac 5 discovers the mystery behind "Exile"!

☐ World's Finest 314: Gotham Bridge may be falling down before help can arrive!

☐ All-Star Squadron 44: Baron

Blitzkrieg attacks in America!

☐ Arion 30: A four-parter begins as the magic returns with Jan Duursema!

☐ Spanner's Galaxy 5: Spanner and Gady are caught in a chain of murders!

☐ Sun Devils 10: The final trilogy begins!

☐ America vs. the Justice Society 4: The secret behind Batman's diary!

☐ V 3: Has Julie fallen for a scientist determined to make peace with the Visitors?

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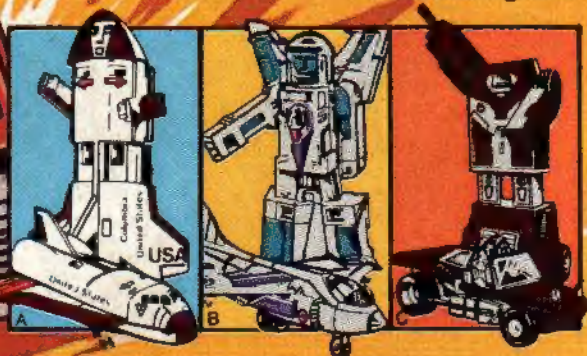
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